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BROOKS KUSHMAN P.C./FGTL  
1000 TOWN CENTER  
22ND FLOOR  
SOUTHFIELD, MI 48075-1238

EXAMINER

MAURO JR, THOMAS J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2143

DATE MAILED: 02/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/707,118

**Applicant(s)**

DAY ET AL.

**Examiner**

Thomas J. Mauro Jr.

**Art Unit**

2143

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 7-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 7-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)               | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>20041202</u> .  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is responsive to the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed on December 2, 2004. Claims 1-5 and 7-25 are pending and are presented for examination. A formal action on the merits of claims 1-5 and 7-25 follows.
2. In light of the amendment filed, objections made against the claims have been obviated with the submission of proper corrections.

### ***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 10 and 21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-5 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tatham et al. (U.S. 6,223,177) in view of Dougherty et al. (U.S. 6,370,575) and Skok (US 2002/0091725).

Regarding claim 1, Tatham teaches a method of collaborating among team members of separate diverse organizations over a first electronic network and a second electronic network **[Tatham -- Abstract and Col. 3 lines 22-24]**, the diverse organizations including first members of a first organization and second members of a second organization diverse from the first members **[Tatham -- Col. 1 lines 14-20 and lines]**, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a virtual team room environment supported on a team room environment server **[Tatham -- Figure 1 – Server, Col. 3 lines 25-29 and Col. 4 lines 19-27 – Server (10), i.e. team room server, hosts dedicated sites which are private office suites which permit group or groupware activity]**, the team room environment server being coupled to each of the first electronic and the second electronic network **[Tatham -- Figure 1 – Primary (30) and Secondary (40) users share different communication links (15 and 20) and Col. 4 lines 11-18 – Users which are connected over the Internet belong to different networks, i.e. first and second electronic networks];**

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permitting access to the virtual team room environment to first team members via the first electronic network only if the first team room members are identified in a directory associated with the first electronic network [Tatham -- Col. 4 lines 61-67 – Col. 5 lines 1-14 – Primary users and those users who are existing Intranet users, i.e. first team members, are permitted to access the virtual team room, i.e. private office suite, over the first network, i.e. Intranet, as long as they are listed on the Intranet-user database, i.e. directory of users, and are given permission by the primary user. These users would generally be people within the given organization or company]; and

permitting access to the virtual team room environment to second team room members via the second electronic network only if the second team room members are identified in a directory associated with the virtual team room environment [Tatham -- Col. 5 lines 15-26 – If a group member, i.e. team member, is not an existing intranet user, i.e. he is not employed directly by the company hosting the project or site, the administrator or primary user can add the external user, i.e. to the directory of allowed users, so that the external user can use the Internet, i.e. second network, to access the virtual team room, i.e. private office suite, if given permission by the primary user];

defining a team room within the virtual team room environment [Tatham -- Col. 3 lines 50-67 and Col. 4 lines 43-60 – Virtual private office suite, i.e. virtual team room environment, contains a plurality of different workgroups for various projects that may be going on. Primary users can create a new workgroup for the specific project being undertaken and the respective team members];

associating a plurality of the first members and a plurality of the second members with the team room [Tatham -- Col. 1 lines 14-20, Col. 3 lines 50-67, Col. 4 lines 61-67 – Col. 5 lines 1-26 and Col. 5 lines 55-67 – Col. 6 lines 1-7 – Various intranet and external users are defined by the primary user to have access to the team room. Primary users associates first members, i.e. intranet members or members of the same company/organization, and second members, i.e. external members from different organizations/companies, to the various sites/sub private offices for the specific project workspace, i.e. team room];

defining a plurality of activities associated with a project roadmap, wherein each activity includes an activity description and wherein each activity is associated with the team room [Tatham -- Col. 6 lines 8-67 – Col. 7 lines 1-11 – Various workgroup activity applications, i.e. event planner and project collaboration, allow for defining activities, i.e. tasks, which specify what needs to be done/completed for a specific project, i.e. project roadmap, associated with a team room]; and

receiving data from the first team members and the second team members in the virtual team room environment [Tatham -- Col. 6 lines 8-67 – Col. 7 lines 1-11 – Team members, i.e. first or second, can submit information to bulletin boards, calendars, event planning etc, for conveying information to other team members].

Tatham, however, fails to explicitly teach associating user data with one or more of the activities, i.e. tasks and assigning a review authority to a member which receives data transmitted by other team members for review and approval prior to publishing the data for others to view.

Dougherty, however, discloses a status/issue tracking system for team members of projects which allows team members to submit status reports/information regarding issues, i.e. activities,

of the project [**Dougherty -- Figure 12, Col. 1 lines 34-67 and Col. 3 lines 40-67 – Col. 4 lines 1-39**].

In addition, Skok teaches a bidirectional collaboration system which allows a user to add or edit data of a document and furthermore discloses sending the document for approval by a webmaster or other nominated personnel before being published for others to view [**Skok -- Abstract, Figures 3c and 6, Page 4 paragraphs [0058-0059], page 5 paragraph [0066] and page 6 paragraphs [0072-0073]**].

Tatham, Dougherty and Skok are concerned with providing a bi-directional collaborative environment for project team members to communicate with each other.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the updating of issue/project status information, i.e. associating data with an activity, as taught by Dougherty, along with the assigning of a review/approving authority through which all data transmitted by users must be approved by before being published, as taught by Skok into the invention of Tatham, in order to provide increased functionality to allow team members to quickly adapt to changes made in a project, which would go unknown if not communicated by other team members along with providing added security and document protection which insures that changes made to a document are both valid and accurate before publishing, thereby protecting both author/publisher and users viewing the documents.

Regarding claim 2, Tatham-Dougherty-Skok teach the invention substantially as claimed, as aforementioned in claim 1 above, including wherein the first electronic network comprises a

secure LAN [Tatham -- Col. 4 lines 1-8 and Col. 6 line 12 – An Intranet is part of a Local Area Network (LAN) of a given company or organization, which is secure because it is within the bounds of the company or organization's network, not accessible to average users outside of the network].

Regarding claim 3, Tatham-Dougherty-Skok teach the invention substantially as claimed, as aforementioned in claim 1 above, including wherein the first electronic network comprises an Intranet [Tatham -- Col. 4 lines 1-5 and Col. 5 lines 1-9 – Primary user and existing Intranet users, i.e. members of the company or organization heading or hosting the project, are connected over the Intranet, i.e. first electronic network].

Regarding claims 4 and 5, Tatham-Dougherty-Skok teach the invention substantially as claimed, as aforementioned in claims 1 and 4 above respectively, including wherein the second electronic network is an unsecured network, wherein the unsecured network is the Internet [Tatham -- Col. 4 lines 11-18 – Server is connected to the Internet, which is classified as an unsecured network, i.e. second electronic network, which permits external users to connect to the site from anywhere in the world].

Regarding claim 7, Tatham-Dougherty-Skok teach the invention substantially as claimed, as aforementioned in claim 1 above, including identification of at least one team leader [Tatham -- Col. 3 lines 30-33 and Col. 4 lines 43-65 – Team leader, i.e. primary user, is responsible for creating the site and selecting the users which are allowed to have access to the site].



Regarding claim 8, Tatham-Dougherty-Skok teach the invention substantially as claimed, as aforementioned in claim 1 above, including wherein the information includes identification of a team purpose [Tatham -- **Figure 3D and Col. 7 lines 42-52 – Purpose of the team is the type and project that they are working on, i.e. Project collaboration, which will include a given project and all of the information concerning the purpose and details of the project being managed**].

Regarding claim 9, Tatham-Dougherty-Skok teach the invention substantially as claimed, as aforementioned in claim 1 above, including wherein the information includes identification of sub-teams associated with the virtual team room [Tatham -- **Figure 1 and Col. 3 lines 61-67 – Server hosts multiple sites which are accessible to different sets of users, i.e. sub-teams, such that all users of a project may be able to view site#1, but only one user or a sub-set of users can view another site, i.e. site#2, relating to the same project containing other information**].

6. Claims 10-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tatham et al. (U.S. 6,223,177) in view of Thackston (U.S. 6,295,513) and Skok (US 2002/0091725).

Regarding claim 10, Tatham teaches the invention substantially as claimed, a method of providing communication and collaboration among team members, wherein the team members include first members of a first group of members and second members of a second group of members, organization disparate from the first members [**Tatham – Abstract, Col. 1 lines 14-20 and Col. 3 lines 22-24**], the method comprising the steps of:

providing a teamwork tool server supporting a team room environment [**Tatham -- Figure 1 – Server, Col. 3 lines 25-29 and Col. 4 lines 19-27 – Server (10), i.e. team room server, hosts dedicated sites which are private office suites which permit group or groupware activity**], the teamwork tool server being coupled to the first members via a first network structure and to the second members by a second network structure [**Tatham -- Figure 1 – Primary (30) and Secondary (40) users share different communication links (15 and 20) and Col. 4 lines 11-18 – First set of members, i.e. primary user and other secondary users within the company are connected via a first network structure, i.e. Intranet, whereas the external secondary users are connected over a second network structure, i.e. the Internet**], the team room environment including one or more activities for which communication and collaboration among team members is provided [**Tatham -- Col. 6 lines 8-67 – Col. 7 lines 1-11 – Team room contains many activities, i.e. project management, event planning, chatting, etc., through which team members communicate and collaborate**];

providing a global directory coupled to the teamwork tool server including an identification for each of the first members and the second members [**Tatham -- Col. 5 lines 1-3 – Existing Intranet user database is a listing of all the members of a given system or**

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**company, i.e. primary, secondary and external users, who are identified in the system and are allowed to access the system only if given permission by the primary user];**

providing a local directory coupled to the teamwork tool server, the local directory including a team room user profile for each of a plurality of team room members defined by the one or more activities, wherein the team room members are selected from the first members and the second members [Tatham -- Col. 4 lines 61-65 and Col. 5 lines 1-34 and Col. 5 lines 55-67 – Col. 6 lines 1-7 – Primary user selects the given subset of secondary and external users from the existing Intranet user database, i.e. global directory, which contains the name, contact information and various other information about the different users, i.e. user profile, and groups them together, i.e. local directory. These members, selected from the first and second members of the first and second networks are the users allowed to access the site. Security features include defining what sites, i.e. activities, that the user can participate in. For example, Tatham discloses that only certain users may access a site which contains activities, based upon the specific team member. Therefore. profiles are, in part, defined by, what sites, i.e. activities, they are allowed to access]; and

receiving a request for access to the team room environment with respect to the one or more activities from one user of the first members and the second members [Tatham -- Col. 3 lines 35-49 – Users request access by using an internet browser to communicate with team room environment, i.e. private office suite, by specifying the URL address of the dedicated site and/or links to any site off of the project homepage site. Because profiles are defined by activities, i.e. sites, they are allowed to access, each site, i.e. activity, accessed, may/may not be accessible to a given user].

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Tatham, however, fails to teach verifying the identity of a user and permitting the access request to the team room environment if the profile matches a given user who has permission along with assigning a review authority to a member which receives data transmitted by other team members for review and approval prior to publishing the data for others to view.

Thackston, however, teaches a method for providing a virtual collaborative environment wherein users are identified by requiring them to log-in to the virtual environment using a username and password which must be verified before access is granted [**Thackston -- Col. 18 lines 49-58**].

Tatham, does however, introduce the need for security and implements a security system by requiring users to enter a password to access the site. Also, unique passwords allow for differing levels of access to the site for various users [**Tatham -- Col. 5 lines 55-67 – Col. 6 lines 1-7**].

In addition, Skok teaches a bidirectional collaboration system which allows a user to add or edit data of a document and furthermore discloses sending the document for approval by a webmaster or other nominated personnel before being published for others to view [**Skok -- Abstract, Figures 3c and 6, Page 4 paragraphs [0058-0059], page 5 paragraph [0066] and page 6 paragraphs [0072-0073]**].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the logon and authentication requirements, as taught by Thackston, along with the assigning of a review/approving authority through which all data transmitted by users must be approved by before being published, as taught by Skok into the invention of Tatham, in order to provide added security measures to protect the “need to know” content from hackers and other illegal intruders over the public unsecured Internet along with providing added security and

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document protection which insures that changes made to a document are both valid and accurate before publishing, thereby protecting both author/publisher and users viewing the documents.

Regarding claim 11, Tatham-Thackston-Skok teach the invention substantially as claimed, as aforementioned in claim 10 above, further comprising accepting from the team members information and data [**Tatham -- Col. 3 lines 50-60 and Col. 6 lines 8-19 – Team members, i.e. primary, secondary or external users, can store information, such as calendar information or tasks, and data, i.e. project information, documents, etc.].**

Regarding claim 12, Tatham-Thackston-Skok teach the invention substantially as claimed, as aforementioned in claim 11 above, including wherein the information comprises document information, task information, meeting information, milestones and calendar information [**Tatham -- Col. 6 lines 8-19, lines 30-33, lines 41-44 and lines 53-62 – Various information is stored in the office suite, including calendar information, milestones, task information and document information].**

Regarding claim 13, Tatham-Thackston-Skok teach the invention substantially as claimed, as aforementioned in claim 10 above, including wherein the teamwork tool server is coupled to a security module for verifying identification information [**Thackston -- Figure 9 and 10 and Col. 18 lines 40-58 – Separate authentication module processes the user name and passwords to permit access to the various users of the system. This module is solely responsible for administering security to the system].**

Regarding claim 14, Tatham-Thackston-Skok teach the invention substantially as claimed, as aforementioned in claim 10 above, further comprising accepting information from the team members and defining a structure of the team room environment in accordance with the information [Tatham -- Col. 3 lines 50-60 and Col. 4 lines 55-65 – Primary user is responsible for creating site based upon the type of project and the information which is necessary. Primary user along with all other users who have access can store, modify, add and delete information to define the structure of the private office suite, i.e. team room environment, based upon the needs of the project or collaboration effort].

Regarding claim 15, Tatham-Thackston-Skok teach the invention substantially as claimed, as aforementioned in claim 14 above, including wherein the information comprises identification of a team leader and a team member [Tatham -- Col. 3 lines 30-33 and Col. 4 lines 43-65 – Team leader, i.e. primary user, is responsible for creating the site and selecting the users, i.e. team members, which are allowed to have access to the site].

Regarding claim 16, Tatham-Thackston-Skok teach the invention substantially as claimed, as aforementioned in claim 14 above, including wherein the information is retained in the local directory [Tatham -- Col. 4 lines 61-65 and Col. 5 lines 1-34 – Primary user selects the given subset of secondary and external users from the existing Intranet user database, i.e. global directory, which contains the name, contact information and various other information about the different users, i.e. user profile, and groups them together, i.e. local

**directory. These members, selected from the first and second members of the first and second networks are the users allowed to access the site and are obviously stored in some type of directory of permitted/allowed users].**

Regarding claim 17, Tatham-Thackston-Skok teach the invention substantially as claimed, as aforementioned in claim 14 above, including wherein the information comprises association information, the association information defining an association between the team room environment and a project [**Tatham -- Col. 3 lines 50-60 and Col. 7 lines 42-53 – Primary user, when creating site, associates the type of project with the specific site being created, i.e. project collaboration, document managing, etc.].**

Regarding claim 18, Tatham-Thackston-Skok teach the invention substantially as claimed, as aforementioned in claim 10 above, including wherein the first network structure and the second network structure each comprises one of an unsecured network [**Tatham -- Col. 4 lines 11-18 – Server is connected to the Internet, which is classified as an unsecured network, i.e. second electronic network, which permits external users to connect to the site from anywhere in the world]** and a secured network [**Tatham -- Col. 4 lines 1-5 and Col. 5 lines 1-9 – Primary user and existing Intranet users, i.e. members of the company or organization heading or hosting the project are connected over the Intranet, i.e. first electronic network, which is secure because it is contained inside the LAN].**

Regarding claim 19-20, these are method claims similar to the method claimed in claims 5 and 2 respectively. They have similar limitations; therefore, claims 19-20 are rejected under the same rationale.

7. Claims 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tatham et al. (U.S. 6,223,177) in view of Skok (US 2002/0091725).

Regarding claim 21, Tatham teaches the invention substantially as claimed, a method of providing communication and collaboration among team and non-team members, wherein the team members include first members of a first group of members and the non-team members include second members of a second group of members, organization disparate from the first members [Tatham -- Abstract, Col. 1 lines 14-20 and Col. 3 lines 22-24 – Team members are those actually working for the organizations while non-team members work for disparate organizations of outside companies], the method comprising the steps of:

providing a teamwork tool server supporting a team room environment [Tatham -- Figure 1 – Server, Col. 3 lines 25-29 and Col. 4 lines 19-27 – Server (10), i.e. team room server, hosts dedicated sites which are private office suites which permit group or groupware activity], the teamwork tool server being coupled to the first members via a first network structure and to the second members by a second network structure for providing access to the team room environment by both sets of members [Tatham -- Figure 1 – Primary (30)



**and Secondary (40) users share different communication links (15 and 20) and Col. 4 lines 11-18 – First set of members, i.e. primary user and other secondary users within the company are connected via a first network structure, i.e. Intranet, whereas the external secondary users are connected over a second network structure, i.e. the Internet];**

**providing within the team room environment a team room [Tatham -- Col. 3 lines 50-67 and Col. 4 lines 43-60 – Virtual private office suite, i.e. virtual team room environment, contains a plurality of different workgroups for various projects that may be going on. Primary users can create a new workgroup for the specific project being undertaken and the respective team members] and a second collaboration environment [Tatham -- Col. 6 lines 8-29 – Second collaboration environments include chat rooms and bulletin boards for allowing team members to communicate];**

**permitting access by the first members to the team room and the second collaboration environment [Tatham -- Col. 4 lines 61-67 – Col. 5 lines 1-14 – Primary users and those users who are existing Intranet users, i.e. first team members, are permitted to access the virtual team room, i.e. private office suite, over the first network, i.e. Intranet, as long as they are listed on the Intranet-user database, i.e. directory of users, and are given permission by the primary user. These users would generally be people within the given organization or company]; and**

**permitting access by the second members only to the second collaboration environment [Tatham -- Col. 5 lines 15-26 and Col. 5 lines 55-67 - Col. 6 lines 1-7 – If a group member, i.e. team member, is not an existing intranet user, i.e. he is not employed directly by the company hosting the project or site, the administrator or primary user can add the**

**external user, i.e. to the directory of allowed users, so that the external user can use the Internet, i.e. second network, to access the virtual team room, i.e. private office suite, if given permission by the primary user. Furthermore, Tatham discloses differing levels of access to the site for various users; therefore it would be obvious that outside users could be restricted to any portion(s) of the site, including the collaboration environment in order to increase security and keep certain information private];**

**associating a plurality of the first members and a plurality of the second members with the team room [Tatham -- Col. 1 lines 14-20, Col. 3 lines 50-67, Col. 4 lines 61-67 – Col. 5 lines 1-26 and Col. 5 lines 55-67 – Col. 6 lines 1-7 – Various intranet and external users are defined by the primary user to have access to the team room. Primary users associates first members, i.e. intranet members or members of the same company/organization, and second members, i.e. external members from different organizations/companies, to the various sites/sub private offices for the specific project workspace, i.e. team room];**

**defining a plurality of activities associated with a project roadmap, wherein each activity includes an activity description and wherein each activity is associated with the team room [Tatham -- Col. 6 lines 8-67 – Col. 7 lines 1-11 – Various workgroup activity applications, i.e. event planner and project collaboration, allow for defining activities, i.e. tasks, which specify what needs to be done/completed for a specific project, i.e. project roadmap, associated with a team room]; and**

**receiving data from the first team members and the second team members in the virtual team room environment [Tatham -- Col. 6 lines 8-67 – Col. 7 lines 1-11 – Team members, i.e.**

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**first or second, can submit information to bulletin boards, calendars, event planning etc, for conveying information to other team members].**

Tatham fails to teach assigning a review authority to a member which receives data transmitted by other team members for review and approval prior to publishing the data for others to view.

Skok, however, teaches a bidirectional collaboration system which allows a user to add or edit data of a document and furthermore discloses sending the document for approval by a webmaster or other nominated personnel before being published for others to view [**Skok -- Abstract, Figures 3c and 6, Page 4 paragraphs [0058-0059], page 5 paragraph [0066] and page 6 paragraphs [0072-0073]].**

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the assigning of a review/approving authority through which all data transmitted by users must be approved by before being published, as taught by Skok into the invention of Tatham, in order to provided added security and document protection which insures that changes made to a document are both valid and accurate before publishing, thereby protecting both author/publisher and users viewing the documents.

Regarding claim 22, Tatham-Skok teach the invention substantially as claimed, as aforementioned in claim 21 above, including wherein the second collaboration environment comprises a chat room [**Tatham -- Col. 6 lines 8-29 – Second collaboration environments includes chat rooms].**

Regarding claims 23-25, these are method claims corresponding to the method claimed in claims 18, 5 and 2 above respectively. They have similar limitations; therefore, claims 23-25 are rejected under the same rationale.

### ***Conclusion***

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Mora et al. (U.S. 6,161,113) discloses a computer-aided project notebook which includes sending documents to reviewers for pending approvals.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas J. Mauro Jr. whose telephone number is 571-272-3917. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00a.m. - 4:30p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on 571-272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



TJM

February 11, 2005

Will C. Vaughn  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2143  
William C. Vaughn